

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 31 and 33-35 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 (b) (1) because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by canceling the remaining rejected claims. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 5, states that claims 1-30 and 32 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action indicates that claims 34 and 35 have been withdrawn from further consideration because they allegedly read on non-elected Species C, Fig. 8. Claims 34 and 35 are canceled.

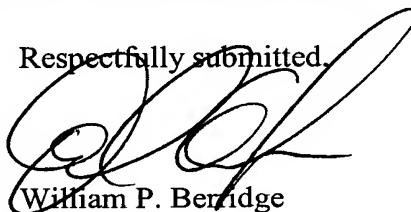
The Office Action rejects claims 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action rejects claims 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,220,483 to van der Heijden.

Claims 31 and 33 are canceled rendering the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b) moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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